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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

SPECIAL STATE-DEFENSE STUDY GROUP

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3 October 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE HONORABLE NICHOLAS deB. KATZENBACH,
UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
THE HONORABLE CHARLES E. BOHLEN,
DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
THE HONORABLE PAUL H. NITZE,
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
THE HONORABLE RICHARD HELMS,
DIRECTOR FOR CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
GENERAL EARLE G. WHEELER,
CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

Subject: Study on U.S. Overseas Bases Requirements

1. As predicted in the Third Progress Report dated 13 September 1968, work on the subject study has been completed to the point where the Study Group is now involved in formulating proposals for U.S. overseas base structures during the next decade and the evaluation of those structures against the current one.

2. The work accomplished has laid principal emphasis on those aspects of the terms of reference which require examination of political requirements, treaty commitments, and projected U.S. policy and strategy. In looking ahead ten years, it became obvious early in the study that base structures, per se, should be related to future U.S. national security policy and strategy and that the latter, in turn, would be determined by national interests on a global as well as a regional basis as affected by the world environment and domestic factors of the period.

3. Thus, it was determined that the solution to the problem lay less in attempting to formulate a single blueprint than in setting forth alternatives in the field of security policy and strategy which the United States might adopt. Proposed base structures related to such alternatives need also to be examined from a functional standpoint together with a consideration of technological developments, political constraints and finally cost assessments.

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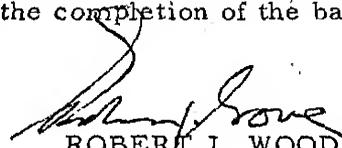
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4. With approximately two months remaining before the established deadline of 15 December, it has become evident that time is not available to perform a thorough and detailed cost analysis nor is such analysis within the competence of the study group. This problem has been discussed with personnel of the Office of the Assistant Secretaries of Defense for Systems Analysis and International Security Affairs and the following proposal is submitted:

a. Complete the overall study by 15 December to the point of qualitative analysis to include gross costs.

b. With the assistance of OSD Systems Analysis, go as far as time will permit in a quantitative analysis of the Western Pacific area only.

c. Accept the fact that such quantitative analysis as may appear desirable in areas other than the Western Pacific be conducted by agencies concerned subsequent to the completion of the basic study.



ROBERT J. WOOD
General USA
Director

Copy to:

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